Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EUR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 PM-03 /048 W

-----083338 061058Z /17

R 060834Z JAN 78 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8461 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL HONG KONG 0319

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EAIR, VM, HK, LA, TH

SUBJECT: HONG KONG/VIETNAM OVERFLIGHT NEGOTIATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SOURCE, BRITISH AND HONG KONG CIVIL AIR OFFICIALS WILL MEET WITH VIETNAMESE AND LAO OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE ON FEBRUARY 9 TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS.(COMMENT: AS THE DISCUSSION WILL CERTAINLY CENTER ON THE USE OF THE DIRECT BANGKOK/HONG KONG ROUTE, AMBER ONE, A THAI DELEGATION MAY ALSO ATTEND.)

2. ON A RELATED MATTER, THE VIETNAMESE HAVE REQUESTED HONG KONG AUTHORIZATION TO FLY CHARTERED CARGO FLIGHTS CARRYING FOOD, MOSTLY FROZEN SHRIMP AND FISH, FROM SAIGON TO HONG KONG. NO MENTION WAS MADE IN THE REQUEST ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FLYING RETURN CARGO FROM HONG KONG. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS RELUCTANT TO ALLOW FLIGHTS DIRECTLY FROM SAIGON SINCE THERE IS NO ESTABLISHED RADIO COMMUNICATION LINK CONFIDENTIAL

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BETWEEN THE TWO AIRPORTS BUT MIGHT BE WILLING TO WORK OUT SOME ARRANGEMENT IF THE VIETNAMESE ARE FORTHCOMING ON THE BRITISH OVERFLIGHT REQUEST.
SHOESMITH

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